

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02659 141404Z
ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6904

C O N F I D E N T I A L T E G U C I G A L P A 2 6 5 9

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SEDU, MORG, US, HO
SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT FOR US COAST GUARD ACADEMY CADET EDUCATION

REF: (A) STATE 116544, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 2404, (C) STATE 134284

1. REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF COST WAIVERS FOR TWO HONDURAN CANDIDATES SELECTED FOR ADMISSION TO COAST GUARD ACADEMY. THE INFERENCE THAT SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CANDIDATES SELECTED TO THE MILITARY ACADEMIES WAS INCLUSIVE OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY. NOW THE U.S. EMBASSY IS IN THE EMBARRASSING POSITION OF ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN COST WAIVERS AND EXCEPTIONS AFTER OFFERING THIS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

2. HONDURAS HAS HISTORICALLY MAINTAINED CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE USG AND WITH US INTEREST IN HONDURAS. ITS RECORD ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN ENCOURAGING EXCEPTION TO THAT OF ITS CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. THE INFLUENCE THAT THE USG CAN CONTINUE TO HAVE IN HONDURAS IS GREATLY DEPENDENT ON RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE BUILT UPON US TRAINING AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID IN RELEVANT, LOGICAL PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THIS ONE.

3. THE NEWLY CREATED HONDURAN NAVY IS ANOTHER EXCELLENT AVENUE FOR US INFLUENCE. SINCE THEIR NAVY WILL BE A COAST GUARD TYPE, THE TIMING OF TRAINING HONDURANS IN THE USCG ACADEMY IS EXCELLENT. GOH WILL USE ITS NAVY PRIMARILY TO ENFORCE ITS FISHING REGULATIONS

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AND TO DETER DRUG TRAFFIC ALONG ITS 400 MILE NORTH COAST. THIS DESIREABLE USE OF THEIR MILITARY FORCES CAN BE GREATLY ENHANCED BY THE PROPER TRAINING OBTAINED AT THE ACADEMY, AND WILL OPEN NEW INTERRELATIONAHIPS AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND HONDURAS.

4. THE TWO YOUNG HONDURANS SELECTED FOR THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY ARE

HIGH CALIBRE, ENTHUSIASTIC MEN. THUS FAR, NO OTHER HONDURAN
CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO ATTEND OTHER US MILITARY ACADEMIES
FOR THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR.

5. BEING ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND A
CLOSE FRIEND OF THE US, HONDURAS SEEMS MOST LOGICAL TO RECEIVE
THIS TYPE OF COST WAIVER FOR TRAINING IN AN HONORABLE PROFESSION.
REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OF COST WAIVERS FOR THE TWO HONDURAN
COAST GUARD SELECTEES OR COMPLETE RATIONALE USED TO PRECLUDE
SAME.

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